

FLASH (BACK CHANNEL - CAS)

January 13, 1970

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FOR COLONEL HANIFEN, MACV SJS, SAIGON

FROM: HAIG (White House) 

REF: MAC 093

Sorry for delay in responding to reference. Problems here prevented firming up plans until now. Have sent memorandum to State for transmittal of formal message to Ambassador Bunker and General Abrams, with formal notification of trip and broad itinerary (copy attached). You should know party is interested in spending maximum time at province and district level. Dr. Lynn and Captain Sansom will concentrate on pacification and allied local force operations. I hope to concentrate on U.S. and ARVN operations.

In planning local itineraries, we would like to enter Corps areas together but insure maximum coverage of areas of interest by splitting up where situation dictates. To the degree possible, party hopes to assemble in one group at night but to remain in field rather than to return to Saigon. For example, group would like to spend one night each in a district in both Dinh Tuong and Vinh Binh Provinces. I recognize this may pose problems and will leave it to your best judgment, providing you understand our emphasis on spending maximum time in local areas.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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We hope to participate only in briefings which you feel are absolutely essential and spend maximum time talking to U.S. tactical unit officers and advisers, as well as ARVN and local Vietnamese officials.

If possible, we would like to have Major Gene Savvageot of Ambassador Colby's staff travel with the team.

FYI: The President and Dr. Kissinger have asked that I convey personal messages to General Abrams and President Thieu. In latter case, I am contacting Ambassador Bunker to see if it would be possible to see the President on Monday, January 19. If this is not possible, it may be necessary for me to interrupt itinerary to make an appointment time more convenient to him. Also, I would be grateful if you would arrange for me to see General Abrams privately sometime on Monday or at any other point in time convenient to him.

Specific flight plans are:

(All Dates and Times Local)

January 16 - Depart Washington (Dulles) via United Airlines,	
Flight #585 at 3:00 pm	
Arrive San Francisco	6:35 pm
Depart San Francisco	
via Pan Am #841 at	9:00 pm
January 18 - arrive Saigon	10:00 am
January 30 - Leave Saigon via	
Pan Am #842	11:05 am

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January 30 - Arrive Honolulu (Stopover - CINCPAC)	7:40 am
January 31 - Leave Honolulu via United Airlines Flight #990	6:00 p.m.
February 1 - Arrive Washington (Friendship)	9:35 a.m.

Attachment

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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January 13, 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR

Mr. Theodore Eliot
Executive Secretary
Department of State

SUBJECT: Proposed Trip to Vietnam

The President has directed that the following members of H. A. Kissinger's National Security Council staff visit Vietnam from the period January 18 through January 30 for the purpose of reporting to him on the situation in-country, to include allied military operations, pacification and enemy capabilities:

Dr. Laurence E. Lynn, Jr.
Brigadier General Alexander M. Haig, USA
Captain Robert L. Sansom, USAF

Group plans to depart Washington Friday, January 16, 1970, arriving in Saigon on Sunday morning, January 18.

It is hoped that the visit can be accomplished with a minimum disruption to Embassy and MACV staff. Team would like to allocate its time roughly as follows:

Saigon	1 day	January 19
IV Corps (Dinh Tuong, Vinh Binh, Chau Doc)		January 20, 21, 22
III Corps (Hau Nghia, Binh Long, Binh Duong)		January 23, 24, 25
II Corps (Binh Dinh, Pleiku)		January 26, 27
I Corps (Quang Tin)		January 28

Group plans to return to Saigon on 29 January and depart next day for return trip via CINCPAC.

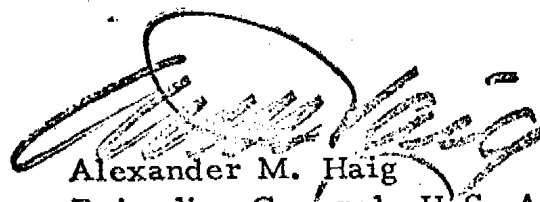
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I have been informed that Colonel Hanifen, MACV SJS, Saigon, will arrange accommodations and details of itinerary and I will contact him directly concerning these matters. Please inform Ambassador Bunker and, through him, General Abrams of the foregoing, to include the fact that I will communicate directly with Colonel Hanifen concerning details of itinerary.



Alexander M. Haig
Brigadier General, U.S. Army
Military Assistant

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